

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method to determine the effectiveness of an asphaltene dispersant in an asphaltene containing oil comprising:

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- (a) extracting asphaltenes from said oil;
- (b) dissolving said extracted asphaltenes in a hydrocarbon solvent to provide a dissolved asphaltenes solution;
- 10 (c) measuring the rate of precipitation, k_1 of said dissolved asphaltenes;
- (d) dissolving said extracted asphaltenes and said asphaltene dispersant in said hydrocarbon solvent to provide a dissolved dispersant treated asphaltene solution;
- 15 (e) measuring the rate of precipitation, k_2 of said dissolved dispersant treated asphaltenes;
- (f) determining the difference K between k_1 and k_2 .

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25 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said hydrocarbon solvent is a mixture of an alkane solvent and aromatic solvent.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said solvent ratio is in the ratio range of alkane solvent:aromatic solvent of 0.5 : 1.5 to 1.5 :0.5.

30 4. The method of claim 2 wherein said alkane solvent is selected from the group consisting of C3 to C16 alkanes, cyclopentane, cyclohexane and mixtures thereof.

5. The method of claim 2 wherein said aromatic solvent selected from the group consisting of benzene, methyl benzene, ethyl benzene, isopropyl benzene, 1, 2, 3, 4-tetrahydronaphthalene, and mixtures thereof.

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6. The method of claim 1 wherein said alkane solvent is C3 to C16 alkane.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said alkane solvent is cyclopentane.

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8. The method of claim 1 wherein said alkane solvent is cyclohexane.

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9. The method of claim 5 wherein said aromatic solvent is benzene.

10. The method of claim 5 wherein said aromatic solvent is methyl benzene.

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11. The method of claim 5 wherein said aromatic solvent is ethyl benzene.

12. The method of claim 5 wherein said aromatic solvent is isopropyl benzene.

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13. The method of claim 5 wherein said aromatic solvent is 1, 2, 3, 4-tetrahydronaphthalene.

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14. The method of claim 5 wherein said aromatic solvent is toluene.